

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 20-27 are pending in the present application. By this reply, Claims 19 and 28 have been canceled, and Claims 15, 21 and 24 have been amended. Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 and 24 are independent claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1-14 were allowed, and claims 19-22 and 28 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claims 15 and 24 have been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in dependent claims 19 and 28, respectively. Dependent claim 21 has been amended to depend on Claim 15, rather than canceled Claim 19 and to correspond with changes made in independent Claim 15.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 15 and 24, and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable and the rejection of Claims 15 – 18 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Noxon et al. considered with Official Notice is moot.

Further, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered as the amendments to the claims place the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

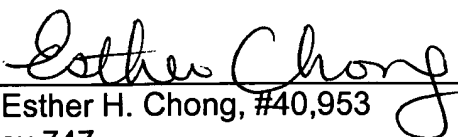
For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David Bilodeau (Registration No. 42,325) at 703-205-8072.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time use.

Respectfully submitted,

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